

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

### **GOAL SETTING 2012-2013**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Board of Selectmen is committed to providing transparent policy and tax spending leadership in determining service delivery, maintaining and improving Darien's assets and infrastructure, and responding to new challenges that affect the quality of life for Darien residents and business owners. Further, the Board of Selectmen must balance community expectations with available funding to ensure that a high and sustainable quality of life is available for all of its residents.

*Version July 9, 2012*

SUCCESS CATEGORIES					
<i>PRESERVATION/ADDED VALUE TO INVESTMENTS</i>	<i>SAFE &amp; HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT</i>	<i>TOWN AS A PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY</i>	<i>ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF THE TOWN</i>	<i>DIVERSE &amp; EQUITABLE COMMUNITY</i>	<i>PREDICTABLE LEADERSHIP &amp; DIRECTION</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology has been used in some areas to add value to town service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful environmental remediation efforts regarding flooding</li> <li>• Low crime rates</li> <li>• Public Health programs targeted to the needs of Darien's residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness for not-for-profits to partner with government</li> <li>• Supportive community willing to support town assets with private funding/donations</li> <li>• Community that gives back with wealth of volunteer time to help the town/deliver services</li> <li>• Positive intergovernmental relations with neighboring towns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost effective and financially stable town services</li> <li>• Low tax rates coupled with high quality services</li> <li>• Walkable Downtown with successful businesses, keeping residents in town, spending money near home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All demographic groups feel equally well served</li> <li>• Successful affordable housing plan developed and implemented which responds to State statute and aggressive real estate development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High employee retention rate</li> </ul>

CRITICAL CATEGORIES				
<i>RESOURCE LIMITATIONS</i>	<i>PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</i>	<i>BUDGETING</i>	<i>DETERMINING COMMUNITY WILL</i>	<i>DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited organizational capacity to carry out new initiatives</li> <li>• Limited town staff to respond to new requests and challenges</li> <li>• Maintaining motivated and qualified workforce and volunteer base</li> <li>• Limited funding – limited taxpayer appetite for higher taxes</li> <li>• Limited land available for housing development and community needs</li> <li>• Limited land available to grow commercial tax base</li> <li>• Need to balance grant stipulations with amount of additional funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health, safety and security of residents and employees</li> <li>• On-going flood mitigation strategies</li> <li>• Proximity to major transportation and mass transit corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible budgeting while providing quality services for residents expect</li> <li>• Keep all buildings and machinery in good working order</li> <li>• Finishing capital projects in a timely and cost effective manner</li> <li>• Marginalization/sacrifice of town services in the name of preserving the educational services provided by Darien</li> <li>• Sharply rising property taxes to maintain status quo in the quality/delivery of services</li> <li>• Recognition and quantification of the relationship between capital and operating expense in government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differences of public opinion regarding use of tax dollars – divergent community expectations.</li> <li>• Political pressure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of “small New England town” character</li> <li>• Increased density and development from within Darien encroaching on single family neighborhoods</li> <li>• Traffic congestion created by I-95/Merritt Parkway hurting businesses and impacting the quality of life of residents.</li> <li>• 8-30g</li> <li>• Supporting local businesses and responsible commercial development</li> <li>• Growth/expansion of urban neighbors on 2 of 3 borders creates quality of life issues for residents (traffic, crime, sprawl)</li> </ul>

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN GOALS**

### **GOAL 1:**

Through prudent management and leadership, provide the most cost effective services possible.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Approve a Town operations and capital budget that is within the economic feasibility of the taxpayers and, to the extent possible, maintains levels of service that are acceptable to the majority of taxpayers.
- Provide responsive, efficient customer-oriented services to fee payers.
- Maintain high quality town facilities and programs.
- Prioritize capital projects for the first 3 years of the 6-Year Capital Plan.
- Explore funding and support for low cost initiatives or initiatives providing significant public benefit.
- Evaluate effective energy efficiency programs and alternative fuels for positive benefits to the Town.
- Evaluate grant funding opportunities which are appropriate to needs and local autonomy desired by Darien.

**GOAL 2:**

Provide timely and effective delivery of public safety and health services.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Provide public safety that focuses on prevention of problems.
- Provide a timely public safety response.
- Encourage and support community wellness initiatives

**GOAL 3:**

Preserve and enhance the quality of life that makes Darien a desirable hometown.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Enrich and enhance Darien's quality of living by effectively managing public parks and beaches, and serving the leisure needs of all residents.
- Evaluate Route 1 Corridor Study for implementation of feasible recommendations.
- Collaborate with the Planning & Zoning Commission to evaluate the need and opportunities for affordable housing development and future planning.
- Enhance senior service delivery through the Mather Center and other town collaborations to enable seniors to remain in the Darien community and meet their evolving program needs.
- Support the enhancement of quality of life for all demographic groups

**GOAL 4:**

Through transparency and effective communication, better inform and engage our community and its stakeholders.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Appoint members to Advisory Commission on Communication
- Use technology for enhanced communication
- Monitor effectiveness of communication tools
- Expand community partnerships
- Explore opportunities to connect town youth to the Town organization through internships and activity with certain Boards and Commissions

**GOAL 5:**

Promote a town organization that is sustainable and maintains employee morale, productivity and effectiveness.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Recruit, develop and retain a highly skilled workforce
- Ensure employees are current on best practices within their areas of expertise
- Promote inter-departmental coordination and communication